

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method implemented by a digital content publication system, the method comprising:
 - obtaining data that identifies unprotected digital content which is stored at a digital content manager and which has been selected by a content publisher for distribution or publication;
 - obtaining data from the digital content manager that causes a digital content publication module of the digital content publication system to be invoked;
 - responsive to invoking the digital content publication module, receiving the unprotected digital content and metadata associated with the unprotected digital content from the digital content manager;
 - providing an interface for allowing the content publisher to enter publication information associated with the unprotected digital content;
 - receiving the publication information associated with the unprotected digital content from the content publisher, using the interface, the publication information comprising distribution information that identifies one or more content distributors selected to distribute the digital content;
 - protecting the unprotected digital content by one or more processors and the digital content publication module, further comprising storing the protected digital content without providing the protected digital content to the digital rights manager; ~~content at a first computing system; and~~
 - sending a rights label including the metadata and the publication information to a digital rights manager ~~a second computing system for storage separately from the first computing system;~~

obtaining data that indicates that the rights label has been registered with the digital rights manager, from the digital rights manager;

providing data to the content distributors to indicate that the content distributors can retrieve the rights label from the digital rights manager; and

providing the protected digital content to a customer of the content distributors.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 1~~ claim 1, wherein the digital content includes at least one of streaming video content, music content, graphic content, print content, sound content, or audio content.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 1~~ claim 1, wherein the metadata includes at least one of a name, length, publisher, location, or description associated with the digital content.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 1~~ claim 1, wherein the publication information further comprises at least one of pricing, rights, or catalog information associated with the digital content.

7 – 55. (Cancelled)

56. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the rights label comprises an eXtensible Rights Markup Language (XrML) rights label.

57. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the digital content publication module comprises an active server page (ASP).

58. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein obtaining data from the digital content manager further comprises receiving a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) request.

59. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein providing the interface further comprises populating fields of the interface with at least a portion of the metadata.

60. (New) A digital content publication system comprising:

one or more computers; and

a computer-readable medium coupled to the one or more computers having instructions stored thereon which, when executed by the one or more computers, cause the one or more computers to perform operations comprising:

obtaining data that identifies unprotected digital content which is stored at a digital content manager and which has been selected by a content publisher for distribution or publication;

obtaining data from the digital content manager that causes a digital content publication module to be invoked;

responsive to invoking the digital content publication module, receiving the unprotected digital content and metadata associated with the unprotected digital content from the digital content manager;

providing an interface for allowing the content publisher to enter publication information associated with the unprotected digital content;

receiving the publication information associated with the unprotected digital content from the content publisher, using the interface, the publication information comprising distribution information that identifies one or more content distributors selected to distribute the digital content;

protecting the unprotected digital content by the digital content publication module, further comprising storing the protected digital content without providing the protected digital content to the digital rights manager;

sending a rights label including the metadata and the publication information to a digital rights manager;

obtaining data that indicates that the rights label has been registered with the digital rights manager, from the digital rights manager;
providing data to the content distributors to indicate that the content distributors can retrieve the rights label from the digital rights manager; and
providing the protected digital content to a customer of the content distributors.

61. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the digital content includes at least one of streaming video content, music content, graphic content, print content, sound content, or audio content.

62. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the metadata includes at least one of a name, length, publisher, location, or description associated with the digital content.

63. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the publication information further comprises at least one of pricing, rights, or catalog information associated with the digital content.

64. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the rights label comprises an eXtensible Rights Markup Language (XrML) rights label.

65. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the digital content publication module comprises an active server page (ASP).

66. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein obtaining data from the digital content manager further comprises receiving a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) request.

67. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein providing the interface further comprises populating fields of the interface with at least a portion of the metadata.

68. (New) A computer storage medium encoded with a computer program, the program comprising instructions that when executed by data processing apparatus cause the data processing apparatus to perform operations comprising:

- obtaining data that identifies unprotected digital content which is stored at a digital content manager and which has been selected by a content publisher for distribution or publication;

- obtaining data from the digital content manager that causes a digital content publication module of a digital content publication system to be invoked;

- responsive to invoking the digital content publication module, receiving the unprotected digital content and metadata associated with the unprotected digital content from the digital content manager;

- providing an interface for allowing the content publisher to enter publication information associated with the unprotected digital content;

- receiving the publication information associated with the unprotected digital content from the content publisher, using the interface, the public information comprising distribution information that identifies one or more content distributors selected to distribute the digital content;

- protecting the unprotected digital content by the digital content publication module, further comprising storing the protected digital content without providing the protected digital content to the digital rights manager;

- sending a rights label including the metadata and the publication information to a digital rights manager;

- obtaining data that indicates that the rights label has been registered with the digital rights manager, from the digital rights manager;

- providing data to the content distributors to indicate that the content distributors can retrieve the rights label from the digital rights manager; and

- providing the protected digital content to a customer of the content distributors.

69. (New) The computer storage medium of claim 68, wherein the digital content includes at least one of streaming video content, music content, graphic content, print content, sound content, or audio content.

70. (New) The computer storage medium of claim 68, wherein the metadata includes at least one of a name, length, publisher, location, or description associated with the digital content.

71. (New) The computer storage medium of claim 68, wherein the publication information further comprises at least one of pricing, rights, or catalog information associated with the digital content.

72. (New) The computer storage medium of claim 68, wherein the rights label comprises an eXtensible Rights Markup Language (XrML) rights label.

73. (New) The computer storage medium of claim 68, wherein the digital content publication module comprises an active server page (ASP).

74. (New) The computer storage medium of claim 68, wherein obtaining data from the digital content manager further comprises receiving a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) request.

75. (New) The computer storage medium of claim 68, wherein providing the interface further comprises populating fields of the interface with at least a portion of the metadata.